



CITY WATER DEPARTMENT EARNS PRESTIGIOUS GOLD AWARD

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The City of Salem is pleased to announce that its Water Department has received the Gold Award for Excellence in Waterworks Operations and Performance from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). This prestigious award recognizes water treatment facilities in Virginia that operate in an exemplary manner and provide water quality that exceeds all of the minimum regulatory standards.

"This shows our employees' dedication to excellence in providing quality drinking water to the citizens of Salem," says Larado Robinson, Salem Water Department Director. "I am very proud of each and every member of our staff, who worked so hard to make this possible."

Chief Water Treatment Plant Operator, Frank Young, and his team achieved a perfect score of 20 out of 20 points for their operations and performance based on filtration, water clarity and filter backwash criteria. Only 22 water plants across the state earned Gold status for 2013.

"I think all the guys are pretty proud of this honor," says Young. "The operators have to stay on top of things consistently by monitoring turbidity, pH levels and other characteristics of the water while staying within proper parameters at all times."

The City of Salem Water Department opened its state-of-the-art water treatment facility on February 22, 2005. It is capable of producing 10 million gallons of drinking water a day for residential and business customers. Prior to this year, the plant had consistently garnered silver awards for its performance.

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